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friendly rivalry with Europe—for it is to be hoped that in the field of scientific research, there will be no trace of any but friendly attitude toward any of the European countries.² America will ultimately lead in idealistic endeavors. It would have done so, war or no war. The thing that will help more than any other to give leadership, is to have the universities make a special effort to gather the funds needed, to enable the men specially gifted in research to do their utmost.

Having secured the building, Mr. President, I hope you will provide the money to enable the men who are to be housed in it to do their best.

C. H. EIGENMANN

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RECONSTRUCTION HOSPITALS AND ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

THE Surgeon General of the Army, Major General William C. Gorgas, authorizes the publication of the statement that the whole conception of governmental and national responsibility for caring for the wounded has undergone radical change during the months of study given the subject by experts serving with the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps and others consulting with them. Instead of the old idea that responsibility ended with the return of the soldier to private life with his wounds healed and such pension as he might be given, it is now considered that it is the duty of the government to equip and reeducate the wounded man, after healing his wounds, and to return him to civil life ready to be as useful to himself and his country as possible.

To carry out this idea plans are well under way for building "reconstruction hospitals" in large centers of population. Sites have been chosen, though not all finally approved, in the following cities: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Paul, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis, Richmond, Atlanta, and New Orleans. Those in Boston, New York, Washington, and Chicago will probably be constructed first. Each will be built as a 500-bed

hospital, but with provision for enlargement to 1,000 beds if needed.

These hospitals will not be the last step in the return of the wounded soldiers to civil life. When the soldiers are able to take up industrial training, further provision will be ready. The injured man may be retrained to his previous occupation to conform with his handicapped condition or retrained for a new industry compatible with that condition. Additional education will be given to those fitted for it, and men may in some cases be returned to more valuable work than that from which they were called to war. Workshops will be provided at the hospitals, but arrangements will also be made with outside industries whereby more elaborate methods of training may be carried on. An employment bureau will be established to place men so trained in different parts of the United States.

This whole matter comes under the department of military orthopedic surgery recently organized in the Medical Department of the Army. The following officers of the Medical Reserve Corps are in charge of the work: Major Elliott G. Brackett, of Boston, director of the department of military orthopedics to the Surgeon General; Major Joel E. Goldthwait, of Boston, director of military orthopedics for the expeditionary forces; Major David Silver, of Pittsburgh, assistant director of military orthopedics to the Surgeon General. The following, in conjunction with the above staff, compose the orthopedic council; Dr. Fred H. Albee, of New York; Dr. G. Gwilym Davis, of Philadelphia; Dr. Albert H. Freiberg, of Cincinnati; Dr. Robert W. Lovett, of Boston; and Dr. John L. Porter, of Chicago.

Arrangements have been made by the department of military orthopedics to care for soldiers, so far as orthopedics (the prevention of deformity) is concerned, continuously until they are returned either to active service or civil life. Orthopedic surgeons will be attached to the medical force near the firing line and to the different hospitals back to the base orthopedic hospital, which will be established within 100 miles of the firing line. In this hospital, in addition to orthopedic surgical

² This letter was written before the United States entered the war.

care, there will be equipment for surgical reconstruction work and "curative workshops" in which men will acquire ability to use injured members while doing work interesting and useful in itself. This method has supplanted the old and tiresome one of prescribing a set of motions for a man to go through with no other purpose than to reacquire use of his injured part.

In addition to the American orthopedic surgeons now working abroad under Col. Jones, of England, others will soon go overseas. Experienced surgeons, and a large number of younger surgeons who will work under competent directors, will go abroad for this work, all to be under the direction of Major Goldthwait. These orthopedic surgeons will work in England among the British force and when needed will be transferred to France to work among American soldiers.

It is not the intention that men able to go back to the firing line shall be returned to this country unless their convalescence will extend over a period of a considerable number of months. Soldiers unable to return to duty will be sent to the reconstruction hospitals in the United States.

Instructors and examiners for all the camps are also being furnished by the department of military orthopedic surgery. A number of older and more experienced surgeons will act as instructors and supervisors for each of the groups into which the camps will be divided; a number of orthopedic surgeons will be detailed as attending surgeons at each camp to act as examiners and as consultants to the camp's other surgeons.

FOREST BATTALIONS FOR SERVICE IN FRANCE

THE formation of a second "Forest" regiment comprising ten battalions and composed of lumbermen and woodworkers, who will go to France and get out of the forests materials for the use of the American, French and British armies, has been authorized by the War Department.

Two battalions are to be raised at once with the active aid of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. It is expected that the remaining eight battalions will be

called for in a short time. Nine "service" battalions, made up of laborers who will be used in connection with the Forest regiment, have also been authorized and two battalions have been ordered raised at once.

In order to provide for future contingencies it has been decided to commission at the present time enough officers for other battalions yet to be raised. Those men not needed now will be placed on the reserve, and will be called as the other units are formed. According to the present plan, fifty per cent. of the officers will be sawmill and logging operators, twenty-five per cent. will be technical foresters, and twenty-five per cent. will be men with military tenants will be selected in the immediate future. The minimum age limit for commissioned officers has been set at thirty-one.

A considerable number of captains and lieutenants to be selected in the immediate future. The minimum age limit for commissioned officers has been set at thirty-one.

A first regiment of woodsmen numbering about 1,200 men and designated as the Tenth Engineers (Forest) has already been recruited and assembled and is now being trained at American University, D. C. This regiment was raised at the request of the British government to undertake the production in France of cross-ties, bridge, trench and construction timbers, mine props, lumber, and other forms of wood required in connection with its military operations. The landing of the American expeditionary forces has made necessary similar provision for their needs, while the French military authorities have indicated that some of the work incidental to their operations might be taken over by woodsmen from this country. Decision to raise the new and much larger force has followed a study of the field of possible usefulness to the Allied cause, made by American foresters attached to General Pershing's staff.

Each of the ten battalions of the second regiment will comprise three companies of 250 men each, and will be under the command of its own major. The regiment will be made up of volunteers. Applicants must be white and between the ages of eighteen and forty.